

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

Claim 1 - A system for high volume print-forming comprising in combination:

a bed having a plurality of alignment locations;
at least two of said alignment locations positioned at different heights relative to each other;

a plurality of substrate blocks, each substrate block including a substantially planar exposed surface and adapted to be positioned on one of said alignment locations of said bed and to move between said alignment locations while supporting upon said exposed surface a structure being print formed; and

a printer located adjacent said exposed surfaces of said substrate blocks and adapted to print material down toward said substrate blocks and upon the structures being print formed upon said substrate blocks.

Claim 2 - The system of Claim 1 wherein at least two of said alignment locations of said bed are spaced laterally from a third alignment location in two non-parallel directions from each other, such that said alignment locations are not arrayed linearly.

Claim 3 - The system of Claim 1 wherein said alignment locations include regions on a sloping surface of said bed facing said substrate blocks.

Claim 4 - The system of Claim 1 wherein said alignment locations include planar steps.

Claim 5 - The system of Claim 4 wherein said system includes a means for moving said substrate blocks between said steps.

Claim 6 - The system of Claim 5 wherein said bed includes a rectangular array of said steps arranged in multiple rows and columns, and wherein said substrate block moving means includes a shuffler adapted to slide all of said substrate blocks laterally a distance similar to a width of said substrate blocks, and a lifter adapted to grab a column of end substrate blocks most distant from said shuffler with one of said end substrate